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On the Best Way to Rake Summer Leaves

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The summer is over — council must now review its success, analyze its failures, and correct its mistakes.

The newly formed Housing Service, chaired by Council member-at-large Eric Hillis, earned the students \$3,500.00 investment, by providing accommodations for nearly 1,000 students. Council must be congratulated both for its unanimous support of the principle, (improved, non-discriminatory housing) and for its initiative in putting the program into effect.

Council vice-president Bill Buntains' investigation of the athletic department has not met similar success. It was hoped that work would begin last term, however to date, ex-hockey star Buntain's contribution has merely been a lengthy invitation to prospective committee members.

A third major decision from Council concerns the formation of a Constitutional Revisions Committee. Work here too was expected to begin last Spring, in time to present Council with a suggested revision early in the year. Several changes are essential to more efficient council action, and the failure of the Committee to act seriously retards Council activity.

Among the changes suggested last year to the Committee Chairman, were provisions for a Public Relations, and a Treasury Board. The Gazette hoped that this former would include an expanded Publicity department, (to include off-campus advertising), the Campus Co-ordinator, and Editor of the Hand-book, and Directory: the Treasury Board, it was expected, would act as financial advisor to Council, to insure the most efficient use of funds.

Council is, in part, indebted to the Hand-book editor, for assum-

ing this responsibility; while smaller than its Spring expectations, the Hand-book is commendable for appearing (for the first time in memory) at a time when it could be most effectively used. That the Editor did assume this responsibility however, permits questioning the booklet's quality: while providing interesting, its purpose should be to objectively inform, not to provide subjective and sometimes opinions of various organizations.

Criticism of the past however, is valid only when applied to the future. It is hoped then, that the Students' Council will consider its own success, and failures, — and try to correct its mistakes in the coming months. Provided with strong leadership, its members seem willing to sit, and inactively listen: it is hoped that the coming term will bring discussion and participation in a truly representative Student Government. I don't believe it will.



A Constructive Initiation

The University initiation today aims primarily at entertaining the student rather than at providing a constructive period of orientation.

Any such program's success must be measured by its adequacy in preparing new students, not merely for college activity, but for University life. At week-end the new student should begin to understand both what is expected of him, and in turn what he may expect from the University.

While the committees this year should be congratulated for adding a few minutes of lectures on efficient study habits etc. to an otherwise unimaginative program, it is suggested that new students would have further benefited from introductions to uses of the library, or from information on University Scholarships and employment opportunities.

Of equal significance is the committees failure to accept a

request for help from a foundation fighting cystic fibrosis — a fatal childrens lung disease. King's University, however, accepted the proposal and joining Acadia, Waterloo, Alberta, and other Canadian Universities participated in the fund drive; distributing shoe-shine kits to three man teams of freshmen, placed about the city, and averaging more than twenty-five cents per shine, they donated all profits to this childrens fund. The King's new students felt that the proposal presented an opportunity to demonstrate their own and their University's intentions to accept responsibility within the community.

It is hoped that Dalhousie's future freshman class executives will consider such proposals as further steps toward a more constructive orientation period — preparing the incoming student for a complete and well-rounded university education.

Thoughts on Thinkers Conference

Elsewhere in this issue of the Gazette appears the first of a series of articles on the National Conference on Canadian Goals, sponsored by the Progressive Conservative Association of Canada, and held at the University of New Brunswick, Sept. 9-12.

The writer of the article has presented us with synopses of two of the many excellent papers presented at the Conference. In doing so he has synthesized the contents — of these papers in a manner which could well be emulated by professional journalists whose efforts in this field often fall far short of the standard set by this anonymous reporter.

However, he would have us believe several things about the Conference which are not in fact true. It is a significant fact that the two previous conferences of this type have both been called by political parties which at the time of their convocation were in opposition at Ottawa. The Conservative Port Hope Conference of 1942 was convened at a time when MacKenzie King's Government was firmly entrenched in power and the Liberals Kingston Conference during the days of

the Diefenbaker administration. To assign a casual connection to the calling of the Fredericton Conference and the dissatisfaction on the part of some members of the party with Mr. Diefenbaker's leadership is fallacious. There are many who believe that if there is indeed floundering and vacillation in Ottawa these days that Mr. Pearson is the guilty party.

To say this is not to derogate in any way the worthwhile motives of the conveners of the Conference. That a political party cannot tie itself to a rigid set of principals which lose relevance with the passing of time is self-evident. In order that the policy of a party be attuned to the requirements of the times and sets the trend for the future, a constant self-examination is necessary. Those who are responsible for the Fredericton Conference, and Mr. Camp would be the first to admit that he is one among many who cooperated to bring it about, are well aware of this fact.

Exception can also be taken to another point made by the writer. He attributes to Mr. Diefenbaker a closed mind, and states, in ef-

fect, that he is completely unreceptive to ideas. Without going into the record, the accomplishments of the Diefenbaker administration belie this opinion of the man. The ARDA program, the Conservative Program of urban renewal, and the efforts to complete the final steps in the "bringing home" of the amending power over the Canadian Constitution, are but three of the imaginative and forward-looking programs which refute the opinion of Diefenbaker as a man who rejects new ideas.

With one conclusion of the author there can be no argument. The Conference will lay to rest for all time the shibboleth that there is an irreconcilable dichotomy between the intellectual community and the Progressive Conservative Party. That there will come from the Conference an exchange of ideas among thinking Conservatives is unquestioned. Only time and the judgment of the Canadian voters will tell whether this will serve to project the Progressive Conservative Party into a position of leadership as Canada moves into its second century of existence as a national entity.

What do Quebec Students want for Quebec?

By GEORGE COOPER, President of Association of Maritime Students

The annual CUS Seminar was held this year at Laval University in Quebec City during the first week in September. It brought together 145 students from all across Canada to discuss "A New Concept of Confederation."

Because of the superb preparation done by the directors of the Seminar (Prof. Yves-Jacques Morin of Laval and Dr. Ramsay Cook of U. of T.), and because most of the participants did their homework faithfully, the conference was in this writer's view a decided success.

What does Quebec want? This question is very difficult to answer specifically, for at least two reasons. First, in spite of the Quebecers claim that French Canada is united in its aspirations for a better future — politically, socially and in the fields of economics and education, — such unity simply does not exist, (except possibly on the more abstract level of a desire for a "better Quebec".) Secondly, and far more important, what Quebec wants, for the moment at least, falls almost entirely in the range of the intangible, as was pointed out in a recent editorial in the Montreal Gazette. One therefore finds it very difficult to draw

up a list of things from "a" to "z" and say, "this is what they want."

There is a profound revolution in Quebec today, socially, politically, economically and in every other way. Every French Canadian one meets wants to promote this revolution and help it in every way he can. To do this they recognize that they must have more political and economic control over their future; but there, agreement ends. Many (but not by any means most) Quebecers view Separatism as the only answer—a solution which gives Quebec absolute control of its own destiny. More would advocate the relatively new concept of the

"associated state" status, by which Quebec would constitutionally be given political power over some of the areas now occupied by the Federal Government, such as income tax and all the various social security programmes. A sort of "supernational" body would then administer matters of mutual interest, such as defence and customs and excise. And finally, some Quebecers would be quite happy with the overall political structure we have now, provided such schemes as the "opting out" formula could be written into the constitution coupled with such things as a Senate composed of half French and half

English members to reflect the bicultural nature of this country.

The only unifying thread running through these views is a desire to promote the "revolution" and consequently a desire for more provincial autonomy. This ties in with the intangible nature of Quebec's wants; for what they really want is greater recognition of the culture, the language, the aspirations of the French speaking portion of a country in which French is an "official" language spoken by fully one-third of the people.

(A full report on the Laval Seminar will appear in the Gazette in the near future.)